

Holmes-Sayward House
Alfred, Maine

HABS-ME-32

HABS
ME

16 ALF

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

"HOLMES-SAYWARD HOUSE"

Alfred, York County, Maine

Owner

Dr. S. B. Marshall

Date of Erection

1802

Builder

John Holmes

Present Condition

The structure was originally built with an enclosed court. The kitchen with fireplace, ovens, and copper vats for hot water, formed the north west section which has been removed, leaving three sections of the original building. The enclosed court was used as a garden. Extensions have been built on the north west end of the building. The wooden fence which surrounded the house and grounds has been removed. Some of the original sash and glass have been replaced.

Description

The house is a two story structure with a low sloping hip roof and balustrade. The front and sides of the house are surrounded by a two story portico supported by fourteen columns. There is a one story vestibule which projects beyond the main house to the edge of the porch. The house is built on a low granite foundation.

There were originally fifteen rooms with nine fireplaces. The parlors have ornate dados and cornices. There is a circular stairway in the hall and the second floor hall has a vaulted ceiling.

Other Existing Records

"History of the Holmes-Sayward House" with photographs and sketches written and illustrated by Edward L. Sayward in 1914.

Additional Data

John Holmes, the builder, was a U. S. Senator from the District of Maine before Maine was separated from Massachusetts. He was later a member of the committee to draft the constitution of the State of Maine.

He was accused by his political enemies of having Indian blood in his veins. Overhearing this rumor, Holmes said that if they thought that, he would prove to be not part Indian but all Indian and went to the blacksmith where he had made the bow and arrow balustrade decoration for his house. Holmes was not, however, of Indian extraction.

The Holmes-Sayward House was owned by the Holmes family until 1849 when it was purchased by the Sayward family. Until 1900, the house was owned only by the Holmes and Sayward families.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Robert J. Taylor

March 12, 1937

DW

4/4/57

Addendum to:

Holmes-Sayward House
U.S. Route 202 (State Route 4),
west side, opposite Green
Alfred
York County
Maine

HABS No. ME-32

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PHOTOGRAPH